

The Charleston Audubon Society — a SC chapter of the National Audubon Society since 1970, founded as the Charleston Natural History Society in 1905, and serving Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties — is a nonprofit environmental organization that actively promotes awareness, appreciation and conservation of the natural environment through educational programs, field trips, conservation projects, sponsored research and social activities.

Expires 1/1/2006
TOM SNOWDEN
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SUMMERVILLE SC 29483-5102



Clear the Way! International Migratory Bird Day, May 14 2005

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is held annually on the second Saturday in May to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. The theme for 2005 is Clear the Way! Reducing Bird Deaths from Collisions. Broadcast and cell towers, wind turbines, plate glass windows, power lines and other man-made structures contribute to the deaths of literally hundreds of thousands of birds each year.

The greatest challenge in reducing bird collisions is finding ways to alter the design and use of structures, equipment and vehicles while still having them serve their purpose. Also, in some cases, it's not quite clear why or under what conditions the collisions occur. Fortunately, studies are under way to develop solutions.

IMBD education materials and art this year explore the positive ways citizens, conservation groups and industry are working to reduce the threat. The IMBD 2005 artist is David Sibley.

Locally the SC Audubon and Charleston Aquarium are hosting Bird Day events including a children's Build a Birdhouse workshop at 10 a.m. (visit or call for details, 579-8652). For information on other events, educational materials and background, look online:

<http://birds.fws.gov/imbd>
<http://www.birdday.org> or
<http://birdiq.com>

International Migratory Bird Day was first envisioned in 1993 at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Now under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird — its journey between its summer and winter homes. Today, it is celebrated in Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Central America through bird festivals and bird walks, education programs, and Bird Day!



New Members, Renewals, Gift Memberships

For only \$20* you get one-year subscriptions to *Audubon* magazine and *The Lesser Squawk*, and all the benefits of local and National Audubon Society membership. Renew for just \$35/year. *\$15 for Sr. Citizens and Students

CHECK ONE: ☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ GIFT MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL

THIS IS A GIFT FROM:

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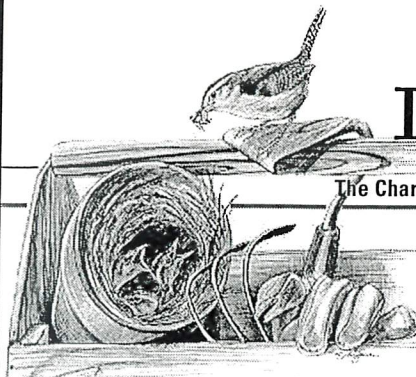
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[RENEWALS MUST INCLUDE THE 20-DIGIT MEMBER NUMBER FROM YOUR AUDUBON ADDRESS LABEL]

Checks payable to National Audubon Society. Include our chapter code on your check: U-51 7XCH



Rudy Mancke Speaking on the History of Natural History in South Carolina

Note that this month's lecture is being held on Thursday, April 14 — still in the second floor auditorium of the main branch of the Charleston County Library, 68 Calhoun Street in Charleston. Lectures are free, and open the public. We gather at 6:30 p.m. and Rudy will begin at 7:00 p.m.

We're glad to welcome well known naturalist Rudy Mancke to speak on South Carolina's diverse natural history and it's role in our heritage as we celebrate 100 years as the Charleston Natural History society and the Audubon Society's 100th year.

Mancke was Curator of Natural History for the S.C. State Museum from 1975 to 1985. In 1978, NatureScene, the television show, began and has run on PBS ever since. He is presently Distinguished Lecturer in Natural History at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. In addition, Mancke regularly presents brief "Nature Notes" on SC Public Radio.

Two of Mancke's common themes are "little things in nature are important" and "you don't have to go far to see powerful stuff right here in South Carolina." Mancke brags about the wonders of his home state and says he's pleased so many fellow Carolinians are developing "pride in place" and "love of local country and its natural heritage."

Help Us with Rummage Sale:

Drop-Off, Set-Up, Friday, April 22nd — 10 am - 7 pm
Sale Saturday, April 23rd — 7 am - 1 pm

Help us make our third Charleston Audubon Society fundraising rummage sale a success! On Saturday, April 23, the sale will once again be held in the pavilion behind the Charleston County Masonic Association, 1285 Orange Grove, in West Ashley from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We not only need items to sell, but we need members to help set-up on Friday. Duties include accepting donations, unpacking boxes, pricing merchandise, arranging items on tables, etc...

On the sale day, we need members to staff:

- the cashier table
- the electronics stand (to show customers that things work)
- the singing bird sale table
- the "antiques" tables
- the homemade food table
- the coffee and donut stand
- the book table
- the clothes racks (2 people)
- general merchandise tables

So, call sale organizer Cornelia Carrier at 577-6437 to volunteer for these positions or to ask questions.

If you've scoured your attic and garage and haven't found anything you can contribute to the sale, then bake some cookies or jar some pickles and bring them — Homemade goods have sold well in the past. If you have the time, please mark goods with prices before the sale. (Please hang clothes for easier display — you can get extra hangers from dry cleaners — and put the price on a piece of masking tape inside the collar or waistband.) This is our big fundraiser so clean out your attic and closets now and/or get busy in the kitchen!

We're also looking for folding tables we can use on the day of the sale. Bring everything to the Masonic Center on Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

If you have large items you cannot bring yourself, please phone Tom Snowden 875-3445 and we'll arrange for a member with a truck to pick it up the week of the sale. Until then, start gathering all that clutter you want out of the house. The success of the sale depends on you members.

Help Wanted

The chapter runs on volunteers. From fieldtrips to lectures and everything else we do. If there are any areas you'd like to work in, please contact us.

Right now newsletter editor Steve Bleezarde is looking for some help for next year. If you think you'd like to help Steve pull-together the information that goes into each issue of the *Lesser Squawk*, or help to organize an email list to keep members up-to-date, please contact Steve at 406-2061, or email steve@bleezarde.com.

President's Message

• **Conservation Lobby Day:** The second annual Conservation Lobby Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19th. If you're interested in making a trip to Columbia to share your views with State legislators, this is a great opportunity. April Stallings has agreed to help coordinate travel there and back: call her at (843) 462-2150.

• Our Spring Rummage Sale is one of our big fundraisers. We hope that we'll see many of you there — volunteering to work the sale, dropping-off items we can sell, or just shopping among the tables.

• Don't forget to check us out online:
<http://cnhsaudubon.homestead.com>

Tom Snowden PH: 843.875.3445
EMAIL: toms@myexcel.com

UPCOMING EVENTS —

- April 14.....Thursday Lecture: Rudy Mancke
- April 16.....Fieldtrip: *Wannamaker Farm*p. 2
- April 16.....Fieldtrip: *Francis Marion Forrest*p. 2
- April 20.....Audubon at the Aquarium
Celebrating 100 Years
- April 23.....Chapter Rummage Salep. 1
- April 23.....Wine & Warblersp. 2
- April 30.....Fieldtrip: *Sewee Preserve*p. 2
- May 7.....Fieldtrip: *Dixie Plantation*p. 2



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Upcoming Programs, Outings* & Lowcountry Events

■ Saturday, April 16 – Wannamaker Farm

Join Bob Chinn and Mary Jo Wannamaker for a tour of the Wannamaker Farm in Calhoun County. The farm is located about 3 miles north of St. Matthews, near the Congaree River. Open fields, wooded edges and ponds should provide some good early spring birding.

Meet Bob at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Summerville at 7:00 am, April 16, 2005. Bring binoculars/scope, field guides, water, lunch/snacks and insect repellent.

Please register with Bob by 6:00 p.m. Friday, April 15, 2005. Phone 843-552-7884, email bobchinn@comcast.net

■ Saturday, April 16 – Francis Marion NF

Join Andy Harrison for a hike along the P'on Swamp Interpretive Trail in the Francis Marion National Forest. The Trail follows a series of embankments and ditches built in the 1700s to create fields suitable for growing rice. The wetland areas now present are rich in plant and animal life, and we should be able to observe some spring warblers and wildflowers. We will also probably visit the Willow Hall Road area in search of Bachman's Sparrows and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Meet Andy at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, April 16 in the Lowe's parking lot in Mt. Pleasant. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, water, food/snacks, sunscreen/insect repellent, and weather-appropriate clothing.

Register with Andy at 795-6934 (or by e-mail at parula23@aol.com) by Friday, April 15.

■ Saturday, April 30 – Sewee Preserve

Join Craig Watson for a visit to the Sewee Preserve residential development north of Mt. Pleasant. Dennis Avery, the developer of this 500-acre property, has placed it under a conservation easement and is limiting the number of home sites to 30. The development includes a single communal dock, a large lake, an observation tower, a "Farm" where homeowners can grow flowers and vegetables, and a network of roads and trails that traverse a variety of habitats. These diverse habitats, including salt marsh, freshwater lake, pine forest, hardwood forest, depressional wetlands, and fields, have yielded 147 species of birds since 2002 when Craig and Andy Harrison began conducting seasonal bird surveys. Sewee has a high density of painted buntings and other species associated with early successional and shrub-scrub habitats.

Meet Craig at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, April 30 in the Lowe's parking lot in Mt. Pleasant. Bring

binoculars, scopes, field guides, water, food/snacks, sunscreen/insect repellent, and weather-appropriate clothing.

Please register with Craig by e-mail at jcraigw1@comcast.net by Friday, April 29.

■ Saturday April 23, 5:30 p.m. – Wine & Warblers

Join Audubon and the South Carolina Wildlife Federation to celebrate Audubon's Centennial Anniversary and the return of Spring to Beidler Forest. The evening will include bird watching from the boardwalk, a wine tasting and heavy hors d'oeuvres. All proceeds benefit the South Carolina Wildlife Federation and Audubon. Admission will be \$25.00 per guest. To make your reservation please call 462-2150.

■ 1st Sunday Each Month – McAlhany Open House

The McAlhany preserve is located in upper Dorchester County on the Edisto River. On the first Sunday of each month we usually hold an Open House for members and the public. The gates open at 9:30 a.m. Dress for the weather, bring your fieldguides, binoculars – snacks and drinks are a good idea.

Directions to McAlhany: Take Hwy. 61, Hwy. 78 or I-26 to Hwy 15. Go to the small town of Grover which is about 10 miles south of St. George. Turn west on Wire Road, cross over I-95 and continue for several miles and look for our signs on the left (the main sign is set-back somewhat, so look carefully.) More detailed directions to McAlhany are on our website, or contact Tom at 875-3445.

■ Saturday, May 7 – Dixie Plantation Outing

Dr. Julian Harrison will lead a trip to the Dixie Plantation, former home of noted artist John Henry Dick, willed to the College of Charleston in 1995. On the Stono River in Hollywood, an easement restricts the property's use to low impact educational uses.

Bring insect repellent, water and snacks for this half-day trip.

This special visit to a site normally unavailable to the general public is part of the Audubon Centennial Celebration. Meet Julian at the West Ashley Wal-Mart at 7:00 a.m. opposite St. Francis Hospital. To register (please do so by May 6,)

■ Tuesday, May 11 – Whooping Cranes Lecture

Monthly lecture the the library by US Fish and Wildlife's Jennifer Koches.

See page 3 story for details.

THE LESSER SQUAWK

The Charleston Audubon
The Charleston Natural
History Society
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Environmentalism: Time for a Change?

by Conservation Chair Andy Harrison

As I was driving back from Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory on the afternoon of March 18th, I listened to a disquieting but thought-provoking interview on NPR's "Talk of the Nation." Two of the guests (Michael Shellenberger, executive director of the Breakthrough Institute, and Ted Nordhaus, vice president of Evans McDonough) have co-authored a paper called "The Death of Environmentalism." The paper was released at the October 2004 meeting of the Environmental Grantmakers Association and later republished in the January 13, 2005 issue of the online journal *Grist Magazine* -

<http://grist.org/news/maindish/2005/01/13/doe-reprint/>.

On the radio, Shellenberger and Nordhaus (S&N) discussed their claim that environmental groups here in the US have been ineffective in dealing with the threat posed by global warming because environmentalism has become a "special interest" movement, whose leaders employ outdated strategies and lack the vision to adapt to new challenges.

According to S&N, the environmental movement became a victim of its own successes in the 1960s and 70s, when legislation such as the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts were passed. They feel that since then, the leaders of the movement have locked themselves into a narrowly-defined, special interest framework as the defenders of a thing called "the environment." S&N also assert that the strategy for success has become stale: define a problem (one that is related to "the environment," although issues such as health care or saving jobs may also be involved); develop a technical solution; and then sell the technical solution to legislators. With respect to the problem of global warming, S&N

say that sticking to this strategy (especially in the face of a changing political climate) has been a formula for defeat – and that in order to achieve real change, the contemporary environmental movement needs to be completely replaced.

About a week after hearing the NPR piece, I read a lengthy, in-depth response to the S&N paper written by Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club (and also published in the January 13, 2005 issue of *Grist Magazine*). In his response, Pope agrees with S&N that the environmental movement has not made much progress on global warming, and that it has inadequately mobilized public concerns and values to create the necessary political pressure on lawmakers to achieve meaningful reductions in carbon emissions. However, he suggests that the nature and very scale of the problem of global warming have made it different from the many other issues on which the environmental movement has been successful. Pope criticizes S&N for providing insufficient (or even flawed) evidence to support their claims and for not offering any solutions of their own to the problem.

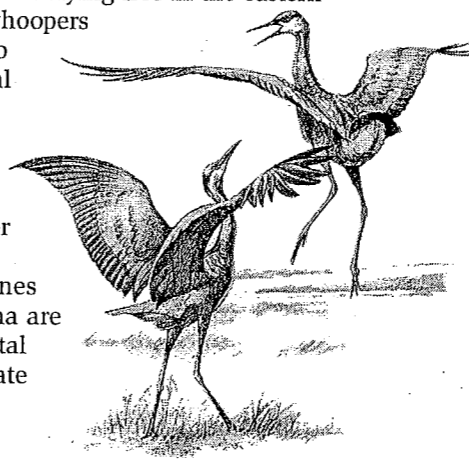
I believe that the environmental movement in the US is still vigorous and capable of achieving victories, especially at the state and local levels. Audubon members across our state will soon have a chance to affect the direction of environmental legislation in South Carolina by attending the Second Annual Conservation Lobby Day on April 19. However, I also feel that Shellenberger and Nordhaus raise some important questions about the future of the environmental movement in dealing with issues such as global warming, and I encourage CNHS members to read their paper and the responses it has generated.

Whooping Cranes, Ultralights, and Operation Migration

CNHS Lecture: Wednesday, May 11, 2005 by Jennifer M. Koches, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Whooping cranes—the most famous endangered bird in North America—are now flying free in the eastern United States. Four whoopers winged their way into Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge last November, marking the first time this species had been spotted in the state for over 150 years.

The whooping cranes seen in South Carolina are part of an experimental population that migrate between Wisconsin's Necedah National Wildlife Refuge and Florida's Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge. Cranes normally learn their migration route by following their parents, but these birds, which are hatched in captivity at the federal government's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in



Maryland, are taught to follow ultralight planes for their first trip south. Since 2001, four groups of whooping cranes have accompanied their motorized "surrogate parents" on the 1200-mile journey between Wisconsin and Florida.

Whooping cranes were once found across much of North America, but now only one truly wild whooper flock still exists. These birds summer in Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park and winter along the Texas coast. When biologists became concerned that a natural or man-made disaster, such as a hurricane or oil spill, could potentially wipe out most of this flock, they started two new populations with captive-raised birds—the migratory Wisconsin-to-Florida cranes and a non-migratory group in Florida.

Today, there are about 450 whoopers, up from a low of 16 individuals in 1941. Approximately 320 live in the wild and 130 are in captivity.

Visit Us Online — <http://cnhsaudubon.homestead.com>



Webmaster Bob Chinn keeps us up-to-date with details of programs, outings & more, including items that don't make it into the Squawk!